



# THE CHRISTIAN ECHO



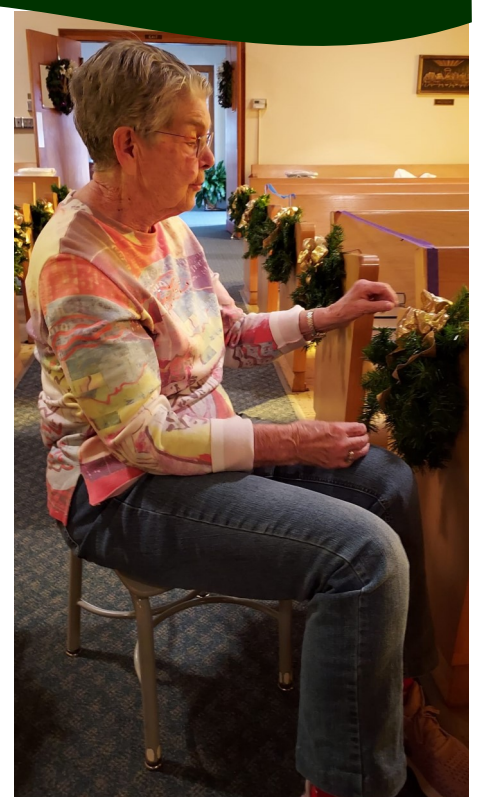
Glen Echo Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
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December 2021  
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## FEASTING AND FESTIVITIES

Several friends feasted on food and fellowship at Glen Echo on Thanksgiving Day (*above*). Numerous volunteers helped to decorate the church for Advent throughout the week. Some of the Saturday volunteers are pictured below.



# MINISTER'S MOMENT

Folks who attended the November 28<sup>th</sup> service, or watched it online, saw the new banners that hang on the narrow walls behind the organ and the pulpit. The materials for the banners were purchased in January 2020, and the original idea was to hang them during Lent that year. When the virus arrived in Iowa in March 2020 and worship methods changed, the banner materials were set aside as we learned how to offer services online and through Drive-In Church.

It's almost two years later, and we are meeting inside the sanctuary and online. The banners are being displayed in their intended locations. The different colored ribbons are abstract representations of the life of Jesus. The silver metallic strip in the center indicates the light that emanated from the Bethlehem star that guided the shepherds to the Savior.

God guided the shepherds to the Savior, and God has guided us, too. The Holy One has provided the methods and means for us to continue to adore our Creator and serve creation. Last Christmas Eve, we celebrated Christ's birth in the parking lot. This year, angels, shepherds, and Wise Ones will once again trek through the church to welcome the Baby King (*see page 3*).

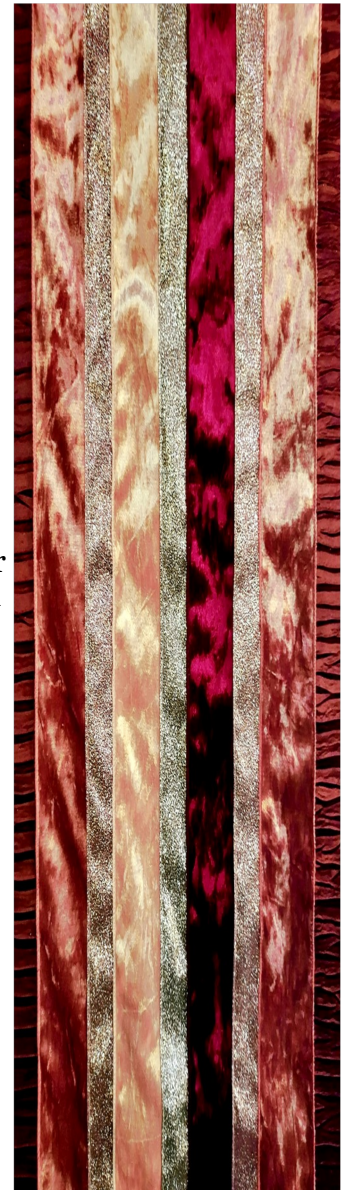
Finances were uncertain at the end of 2020. But, because of God's leading, the Board's decisions, the Financial Team's perseverance, and your generosity, next year's proposed budget looks promising.

The pandemic resulted in a temporary reduction in the usage of Glen Echo's building, but the Board voted to enter into a space-sharing agreement with River Valley Disciples. The rental arrangement provides this new Disciples of Christ congregation with a stable place to meet, and it enhances the ministry to God's people that originates at the corner of Beaver and Douglas.

As Advent comes and we enter this new church year, we have ample reason to give thanks to God. We can trust the Creator and welcome Jesus, the incarnate expression of God's love, into our hearts with hope.

Blessed to follow the star with you,

*Pastor Dawn*



## DECEMBER PREACHING SCHEDULE

DATE	SCRIPTURE LESSON	SERMON TITLE
DECEMBER 5	Luke 1:68-79	"Enacting Peace"
DECEMBER 12	Luke 3:7-18	"Saved by Patience"
DECEMBER 19	Micah 5:2-4	"Divine Gaze"
DECEMBER 24	Numerous Scriptures	Christmas Eve Service
DECEMBER 26	To Be Announced	The Rev. Dr. L. Louise Bruce

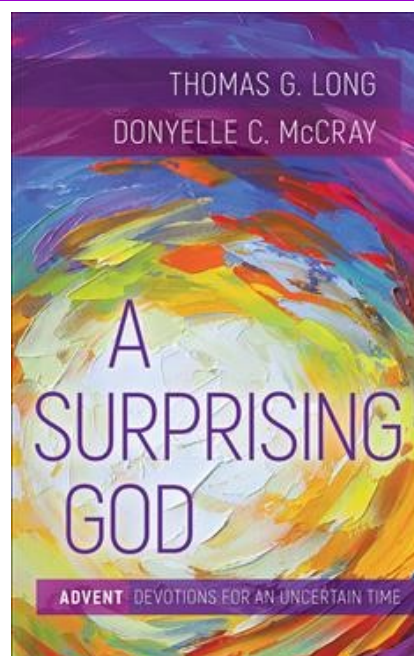


## DECEMBER DOINGS

### Advent Resources

This year, we are using Advent liturgies from *Everlasting Light: A Resource for Advent Worship*, written by Sandy Dixon and published by Chalice Press.

Sermons will include references to a book written by Thomas G. Long and Donyelle C. McCray titled, *A Surprising God: Advent Devotions for an Uncertain Time*. These insightful writers demonstrate how ancient scriptures apply to our current days.



### Christmas Pageant

Glen Echo's sanctuary will once again be visited by angels, shepherds, Wise Ones, and the Holy Family during our 7:30 PM Christmas Eve Service. Play rehearsal will be at 10:00 AM Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, and costume fittings will occur immediately after practice.

We are still in need of shepherds and wise people, and additional angels are always welcome. Please add your name to the sign up sheet in the hallway if you'd like to participate.

# Outreach ACTIONS



64 items of food and \$100 were donated for the Food Pantry in November (left). The food was taken to the Urbandale facility to be distributed to our neighbors in need. Thank you for your continuing generosity to alleviate food insecurity in the city.

The spirit of Thanksgiving was honored as Kathleen, Joan and several other Glen Echo members baked 16 casseroles for the Salvation Army after church on Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup> (right).



During Advent, you are invited to bring children's hats and mittens to the church and place them on the Christmas tree in the church entryway (above). The Outreach Committee will take the items to a local school after Christmas.

**\$200 was collected for the Disciples of Christ's Thanksgiving Offering. These funds support our denomination's colleges and universities, as well as our seminaries and Divinity Houses.**

River Valley Disciples is a new Disciples of Christ congregation that is looking for a place where they can meet consistently. Pastor Sheldon Henderson talked with members of Glen Echo's Board in October to discuss the possibility of gathering at Glen Echo. At the November 9<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, our church leadership voted to approve a space-sharing arrangement with River Valley Disciples.

After consultations with our Insurance Agent and other parties, a six-month lease agreement was written by our resident paralegal and vetted by our Board. The agreement will be re-evaluated after the initial period, with the hope of entering



into a growing partnership with RVD. This new congregation is financially supported by the Region, and they will contribute \$320 per month for the use of space at Glen Echo.

Beginning December 5<sup>th</sup>, River Valley Disciples will meet in the lounge on Sunday mornings from 9:00—9:45. This mission-minded congregation may also use the kitchen to prepare meals for various ministries in the community. Future endeavors with both congregations may involve joint Outreach and Youth Group projects.

More information about River Valley Disciples can be found at [www.rivervalleydisciples.org](http://www.rivervalleydisciples.org).



## WE'VE GOT MAIL

Dear Glen Echo Church Family,

Thank you to the many members that have supported us with cards and attendance at Mom's service. She was loved by so many and did enjoy the company of her church friends. Our family thanks you all for the extra hands lent to help Mom in recent years, too. You were the answers to many prayers.

Please use the enclosed memorial contributions as best you see fit in her honor. We are grateful for her relationship with you all.

Peace and blessings, and many thanks,

Lisa and Family  
Doug and Family



## IMAGINE God's Love REVEALED

A special day offering of Disciples Mission Fund supporting the ministries of our Region



Support your regional ministries with the 2021 Christmas Offering!

Join together to:

- Ordain, Commission, and Install Pastors
- Support congregations in search, conflict, or disaster recovery
- Nurture children and youth through the camping program
- Provide grants for new churches and ministries
- Reveal God's Love throughout our region!

**The Christmas Offering will be received at Glen Echo December 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>.**

## SENSE OF VALUE

The October 2021 Financial Report is below.

9/30/21 Balance	\$64,159.94
Receipts	6,843.08
Expenses	(10,610.82)
10/31/21 Balance	\$60,392.20

Terri, Treasurer

## COOL-AID CAMPAIGN



**\$18,426.00 has been collected for the Cool-Aid Campaign. Thank you for your generosity!**

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Marvin  
 Marlene  
 Tammy  
 Jeanine  
 Carla  
 Lora  
 Erin  
 Abby  
 Jim  
 Fletch  
 Geri  
 Rosemarie  
 Angel  
 Ruth  
 Sandy  
 Donald  
 Marilyn  
 Al  
 Diana  
 Ryan  
 Tara  
 Bev  
 Mary



## ATTENDANCE

	In-Person	Online	Total
<b>November 7</b>	34	22	56
<b>November 14</b>	31	n/a	31
<b>November 21</b>	34	18	52
<b>November 28</b>	30	17	47

Links to services and bulletins can be found at <http://glenechochristianchurch.com/sermons.html>



# December 2021

			<b>1</b> 7:30 Encouraging Echoes	<b>2</b> 2:00 Prayer	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>  10:15 Worship  3:00 Edencrest Chapel Service	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:30 Encouraging Echoes	<b>9</b> 2:00 Prayer	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>  10:15 Worship  After Church: Annual Congregational Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7:30 Encouraging Echoes	<b>16</b> 2:00 Prayer	<b>17</b> 10:00 Deacon Callers	<b>18</b> 10:00 Christmas Eve rehearsal  11:00 Costume Fitting
<b>19 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>  10:15 Worship	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:30 Encouraging Echoes	<b>23</b> 2:00 Prayer	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b>	<b>25 Christmas</b>
<b>26</b>  10:15 Worship  After Church: Elders' Meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 2:00 Prayer	<b>31</b>  <b>New Year's Eve</b>	

**Pastor Dawn will be on vacation December 26, 2021 — January 3, 2022.**

**Glen Echo  
Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)**

**4323 Douglas Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50310**

**DECEMBER 2021 SERVING SCHEDULE**

**December 5**

**Worship Leader:** Kathleen

**Elder:** Carol

**Deacon:** Jim

**December 12**

**Worship Leader:** Rosemarie

**Elder:** Rosemarie

**Deacon:** Kathy

**December 19**

**Worship Leader:** Julie Mallas

**Elder:** Carol

**Deacon:** Mary

**Christmas Eve**

**Worship Leader:** Pastor Dawn

**Elder:** TBA

**Deacon:** TBA

**December 26**

**Worship Leader:** Kathleen

**Elder:** Rosemarie

**Deacon:** TBA